

Community Grant Program

**Recipient Project Summaries
Atlantic Edge Credit Union**

About the Program

As a member-owned and democratically controlled financial co-operative, our success is linked to the success of our communities. We are committed to investing financial and nonfinancial resources to contribute to the sustainable wealth and well-being of our communities. For this reason, Atlantic Edge Credit Union (AECU) is proud to fund the Community Grant Program.

The Community Grant Program will provide funding to community stakeholders whose values and activities align with our efforts to deliver social, economic, and environmental benefits to our members and their communities. Full program details are available on [our website](#).

Stay tuned as we follow these amazing projects and their impact in the coming months!

2024 Winners

We are delighted to share the results of our Community Grant Program! Over 30 incredible submissions were received, and we are thrilled to be awarding grants to 5 applicants. AECU is excited to support these exceptional projects that are creating a positive impact in uplifting our communities:

- 1. Organization: SucSeed Social Enterprises Inc.**
Project: Increasing Agriculture Education in the Classroom
Region: Avalon

The SucSeed Foundation team will visit 30 classrooms and communities, directly impacting approximately 1,000 students by delivering engaging, hands-on lessons focused on sustainable agriculture, healthy eating, and waste reduction. Working closely with educators, they will design activities that align with core curriculum outcomes, ensuring that students gain relevant, practical knowledge. Lesson examples include coding sensor systems to monitor plant growth, cultivating plants directly in the classroom, and exploring diverse careers in agriculture. By providing students with these unique learning experiences, they hope to inspire interest in environmental sustainability and equip students with skills and insights that will serve them well into the future. The lesson plans created through this project funding will be available to classes for years to come, further educating hundreds of students every year.

- 2. Organization: Badger Brook First Nation Inc.**
Project: Kesalulut (The Ripple of Wisdom and Love)
Region: Central

The Kesalulut (The Ripple of Wisdom and Love) Project is designed to bring together youth, elders, and all community members of the area to foster cross-generational learning, culture revitalization, and community well-being. Through a series of cultural and community gathers, they aim to create a platform for sharing knowledge, skills, and traditions between generations. The project will focus on providing hands-on activities, including life skills training for youth, financial literacy and budgeting for both youth and elders, and on-the-land learning experiences that promote environmental stewardship and cultural connection. By nurturing a strong sense of community and intergenerational dialogue, this project will strengthen ties and preserve the cultural heritage of the Mi'kmaw people and other cultures within the community for future generations.

- 3. Organization: Mi'kmaw Cultural Foundation**
Project: Four Seasons Four Gatherings
Region: Western

Forty Indigenous Youth between the ages of 15 to 30, representing each of the Indigenous groups in the province, will be recruited to participate in a year-long opportunity to build their cultural knowledge alongside Elders and Mentors. They will commit to learning the teachings, absorbing the culture, and passing the knowledge on to other youth on their traditional territories. This project will enhance education, health, participation in the labour market, and the economic success of Indigenous youth in Newfoundland and Labrador.

- 4. Organization: Southern Labrador Development Association (SLDA)**
Project: Regional Community Support Services Network
Region: Labrador/Northern Peninsula

The proposed SLDA Regional Community Support Services Network is committed to creating an inclusive and supportive environment for individuals of all ages, emphasizing the empowerment of seniors, community members, regional community councils, non-profit organizations, and volunteer community groups. Their mission is to establish a sustainable infrastructure that promotes the well-being of the community through comprehensive services, fostering collaborations, and enhancing resource accessibility. Essential roles and services will form the foundation of the network, guaranteeing a unified and effective strategy for community support. By fostering a supportive environment, these services will play a crucial role in enhancing well-being and building resilient communities. The four main areas of focus will be: support to seniors/differently abled; support for volunteer community groups; employability and recruitment support services; and municipality support services.

- 5. Organization: St. John's Farmers' Market Cooperative**
Project: Refresh to Grow
Region: Province-wide Co-operative Grant

The St. John's Farmers' Market Cooperative (SJFM) is a non-profit cooperative established in 2008 that fosters opportunities for hard-working, local entrepreneurs, and serves as a diverse and multicultural community hub for all sorts of community activities. As the only non-profit farmers' market on the Avalon, they are a home and business incubator for more than 150 small business entrepreneurs and offer event rental space (including a commercial kitchen) to the community for events from 7 to 700 people. The SJFM represents the diversity of more than 30 different countries and believes in the value of entrepreneurs to the economic growth of this province. They champion local sustainability, environmental awareness, and believe that as a community, we can work collectively to build each other up.

Over the past 6 years, they have welcomed more than one million visitors through their doors, creating wear and tear in their space. Their project will refresh and repair their community space by repainting interior and exterior spaces, replacing broken tables and chairs, and working collaboratively with local artists to develop a mural showcasing the awesome diversity of our province.

Questions about the program?
Contact info@aecu.ca for more information.